(e) what steps are being taken to increase the number of the rare species of Rhinocerous ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the State Government of Assam and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Report of Wildlife Fund

1374. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report on World Wildlife Fund to the effect that India is losing more temperate forest than any other country in the World;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government of India in regard thereto;

(c) the total forest land lost every year in the country alongwith its percentage of total forest land during the last three years; and

(d) what steps are being taken to afforest the land alongwith the achievements made during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Total forest land diverted for non-forestry purposes and its percentage to total forest area of the country during last three years is given as under :

S. No.	Year	Forest Area Diverted (In ha.)	Percentage to total Forest Area
1.	1990	1,38,551.33	0.1799%
2.	1991	625.21	0.0008%
3.	1992 (upto Oct., 1992)	5,372.13	0.0069%

(d) Compensatory afforestation carried out in lieu of diversion of forest land is given below :—

S. No.	Year	Compensatory afforestation carried out (in ha.)
1.	1990	41,205
2.	1991	45,047
3.	1992	52,749*

*Continuing.

Forest Area in the Country

1375. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total area under forest in India as on 1st November, 1992;

(b) whether the area under forest is decreasing fast and at what rate;

(c) what is the area brought under afforestation during the last 10 years; and

(d) what steps are being taken to stop the denudation of forests ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No assessment of Area under forest as on 1st November 1992 has been made. However, as per the State Forest Report 1991 of Forest Survey of India the total recorded forest Area in the country is 7,70,078 Sq. kms.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) An area of 134.50 lakh ha. was afforestated under the 20 Point Programme during the Sixth and Seventh Plan period

(d) The various steps taken by the Government to stop the denudation of forests are :—

(i) Guidelines have been issued to State Government/UTs. to consider banning green felling on